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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ROMAN SCHERTLER

Serial No.: 09/619,391

Group Art Unit: 3726

Filed: JULY 19, 2000

Examiner: MARC JIMENEZ

Title: VACUUM PROCESS APPARATUS

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173(c)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant states as follows, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.173(c).

With regard to the status of all patent claims, applicants note that by amendment of April 10, 2002, Claims 55 to 71 were deleted. Claims 1-54 and 72 remain pending in the reissue application.

Claims 35, 37, 52 and 72 were amended on April 10, 2002, as supplemented by the paper filed May 21, 2002.

Claim 35 was amended to recite a transport device "with said vacuum chamber." Support for this recitation is found, *inter alia*, at col. 5, lines 53-57.

Claim 35 was further amended to recite a transport arm "projecting from said drive shaft." The term "drive" was substituted at two places in Claim 35 to correct an obvious typographical error (i.e., "draft"); the antecedent basis for "drive" is found in line 4 of Claim 35 as filed. The transport arms 5, 5a, 5b, etc., are shown projecting from the drive shafts 3 in Figs. 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings.

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Claim 35 was still further amended to recite that the transport arms move the conveyors independently of each other "with a radial component" relative to the drive (not draft) shaft. Fig. 2 shows movement of the conveyor 19 in the direction of broad arrow A₁₃ which has a radial component relative to the drive axis 3.

Claims 37 and 52 each correct the above-mentioned typographical error by substituting --drive-- for "draft", the proper antecedent basis for the former having been provided in Claim 35 as filed in the reissue application.

Claim 72 adds the following steps in lieu of the recited steps of rotating and moving in the claim as filed, the support for which is indicated as follows:

Claim 72	Support
providing a vacuum chamber with two openings defining respective opening areas,	Fig. 2 shows vacuum chamber K with two openings 25; col. 5, line 45 to col. 6, line 11.
providing a transport device having a drive shaft rotatable around a rotational axis of said drive shaft,	Fig. 2 shows the drive shaft of the motor 1 rotatable about axis 3; col. 5, lines 45-61.
providing two conveyors for at least one workpiece each and a transport arm for each conveyor mounted opposite each other to and projecting from said drive shaft,	Fig. 2 shows two conveyors 19 and respective transport arms 5 opposite each other and projecting from the drive shaft.
said arms being operatively coupled to said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft,	Fig. 2 shows the arms 5 coupled to the conveyors 19; independent operation is described at col. 5, line 67 to col. 6, line 11.
applying a workpiece to each of said conveyors,	Fig. 2 shows the workpiece 21 applied to conveyor 19 and also in dashed line; col. 6, lines 3-11.
providing at one of said two openings a treating station,	Fig. 2 shows station 27.
rotating said transport device and therewith said workpieces by 180° so as to align each of said two workpieces with one of said openings,	Col. 5, 58 to col. 6, line 11.
moving said conveyors with said workpieces by said respective arms	Fig. 2, col. 6, lines 3-11.


Claim 72	Support
towards said two openings and treating one of said two workpieces at said one of said openings by said treatment chamber.	

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #622/40901C2).

Respectfully submitted,

July 10, 2002



 James F. McKeown
 Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
 P.O. Box 14300
 Washington, DC 20044-4300
 Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
 Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

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